

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

B 1
1. (Currently amended) A man-machine interface method for assisting a user in a decision making process, for use with a machine having a video monitor device and a user input device, the man-machine interface method comprising steps of:

[[a]] accepting [[an]] a decisional event from the user input device; and

[[b]] generating a display for output on the video monitor device, the display including

[[i]] a first window displaying first information of a first type, the first information being related to the decisional event, and

[[ii]] a second window displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the decisional event.

2. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the display generated simulates a three-dimensional environment in which the first and second windows reside.

3. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 2, ~~wherein~~ the first and second windows are represented as sides of an unfolded geometric object.

4. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 2, ~~wherein~~ the first and second windows are represented as sides of an unfolded cube.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

5. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 2, ~~wherein~~ each of the first and second windows include a maximize button,

~~wherein~~ when the maximize button of the first window is selected, a display having the first window, arranged in normal, head-on, view, is generated, and

~~wherein~~ when the maximize button of the second window is selected, a display having the second window, arranged in normal, head-on, view, is generated.

6. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1 further comprising a step of:

[[c]] generating a visual indicator for associating the first information of the first window and the second information of the second window.

7. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ the visual indicator is selected from at least one of a group of visual indicators consisting of (a) a colored line, [[(b)]] a colored ray, and [[(c)]] a colored arc.

8. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ the visual indicator is translucent.

9. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the first window includes alternative representations of the first information, each of which is related to the decisional event.

10. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 9, ~~wherein~~ the first window depicts a calendar having a number of alternative time sequences, ~~wherein~~ the alternative representations of the first information may be an alternative time duration on each of the alternative time sequences.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

11. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1 further comprising a step of:

[[c]] forming a search query based, at least in part, on contents of the decisional event.

12. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 11, wherein the search query is further based, at least in part, on a user profile.

13. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 11 further comprising steps of:

[[d]] returning a result of the search query;

[[e]] determining whether the result includes any information of the first type or of the second type; and

[[f]] if the result includes any information of the first type, generating a visual representation of such information on the first window, and if the result includes any information of the second type, generating a visual representation of such information on the second window.

14. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, wherein the first window is a bulletin board, and

wherein a note, having contents entered by a user, is arranged on the bulletin board and defines the decisional event.

15. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, wherein the first window is a map, and

wherein a place of the map related to the decisional event includes a marker.

16. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 15, wherein the marker is a colored circle.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

17. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 16, ~~wherein~~ the marker is translucent.

18. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 16, ~~wherein~~ the second window is a bulletin board, and

wherein a note, having contents entered by a user, is arranged on the bulletin board, defines the decisional event[[,]] and has a color which matches the color of the marker.

19. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the first window is an information browser.

20. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 19 further comprising a step of:

[[c]] forming a search query based, at least in part, on contents of the decisional event.

21. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 20, ~~wherein~~ the search query is further based, at least in part, on a user profile.

22. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 20 further comprising steps of:

[[d]] submitting the search query to the information browser;

[[e]] returning a result of the search query;

[[f]] determining whether the result includes any information of the second type;

and

[[g]] if the result includes any information of the second type, generating a visual representation of such information on the second window.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

23. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 22, ~~wherein~~ the information browser is selected from at least one of a group consisting of (a) a browser for browsing HTML pages, [(b)] a browser for browsing documents, [(c)] a browser for browsing databased files, [(d)] a browser for browsing a schedule, [(e)] a browser for browsing a to do list, and [(f)] a browser for browsing contacts.

24. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface method of claim 22, ~~wherein~~ the second window is a map, and

~~wherein~~ the information of the second type includes places and addresses.

25. (Currently amended) A man-machine interface for assisting a user in a decision making process, for use with a machine having a video monitor device and a user input device, the man-machine interface comprising:

[(a)] a standby state in which a display including a simulated three dimensional environment having

[(i)] a first window displaying first information of a first type, the first information defining an aspirational event, and

[(ii)] a second window displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the aspirational event, is generated for rendering on the video monitor device;

[(b)] a first window update state during which the user can update the first window by entering commands via the user input device;

[(c)] a second window update state during which the user can update the second window by entering commands via the user input device;

[(d)] a first window focus view state in which a display including the first window, arranged in a normal head-on view, is generated for rendering on the video monitor device; and

[(e)] a second window focus view state in which a display including the second window, arranged in a normal head-on view, is generated for rendering on the video monitor device.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

26. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface of claim 25, ~~wherein~~, when in the standby state,

[[i]] if a first user command is received from user input device, the first window update state is entered,

[[ii]] if a second user command is received from user input device, the second window update state is entered,

[[iii]] if a third user command is received from user input device, the first window focus view state is entered, and

[[iv]] if a fourth user command is received from the user input device, the second window focus view state is entered.

B1
27. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ the first user command is locating a cursor over the first window, the second user command is locating a cursor over the second window, the third user command is clicking a maximize button of the first window, and the fourth user command is clicking a maximize button of the second window.

28. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ each of the first window focus view state and the second window focus view state include a world-in-miniature tool which includes a representation of the standby state.

29. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface of claim 26, ~~wherein~~, when in the first window focus view state,

[[i]] if a first user command is received from the input device, the standby state is entered, and

[[ii]] if a second user command is received from the input device, the second windows focus view state is entered.

30. (Currently amended) The man-machine interface of claim 29, ~~wherein~~ the first user command is a click on a minimize button on the first window and the second user command is a flicking gesture.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

31. (Currently amended) A method for managing a man-machine interface, including

[[-]] a first window for displaying first information of a first type, the first information being related to an inclinational event, and

[[-]] a second window for displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the inclinational event,
for assisting a user in a decision making process, for use with a machine having a video monitor device and a user input device, the method comprising steps of:

[[a)]] accepting user commands from the user input device;

[[b)]] updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted;

[[c)]] determining a state of the man-machine interface based on the user commands accepted; and

[[d)]]

[[i)]] if the state of the man-machine interface is a standby state,

[[A)]] generating a display of a three dimensional environment including the first and second windows for rendering on the video monitor device, and

[[B)]] generating a visual link from the first information in the first window to the second information in the second window

[[ii)]] if the state of the man-machine interface is a first window focus view state, generating a display of the first window in a normal, head on, view, and

[[iii)]] if the state of the man-machine interface is a second window focus view state, generating a display of the second window in a normal, head on, view.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein the step of~~ updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes ~~steps of~~:

[[i]] generating an query based on at least one of the (a) the user inputs and (b) a user profile;

[[ii]] processing the query to generate a return; and

[[iii]] determining whether the return includes information of the first type or information of the second type, ~~wherein~~ if the return includes information of the first type, the first window is updated, and ~~wherein~~ if the return includes information of the second type, the second window is updated.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein~~ the first window is a bulletin board, and ~~wherein~~ the ~~step of~~ updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes ~~steps of~~:

[[i]] determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

[[A]] determining whether a note creation command was entered and if so, accepting text via the user input device;

[[B]] determining whether a note edit command was entered and if so, editing a note based on entries from the user input device;

[[C]] determining whether a note posting command was entered and if so,

[-] generating a query based on the contents of the note,

[-] processing the query to generate a return, and

[-] determining whether the return includes an information of the second type and if so, updating the second window; and

[[D]] determining whether a note move command was entered and if so, updating a location of the note on the bulletin board.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, ~~wherein~~ the note creation command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an empty part of the bulletin board,

~~wherein~~ the note edit command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an existing note on the bulletin board,

~~wherein~~ a note posting command is a flicking gesture, and

~~wherein~~ a note move command is a mouse drag.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, ~~wherein~~, if one of a note creation command and a note edit command is entered, ~~further performing a step of~~ displaying the note in a normal, head on, view in a foreground of the three dimensional environment.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31 ~~wherein~~ the first window is a map,

~~wherein~~ the map includes a marker at a location associated with the inclinal event, and

~~wherein~~ the step of updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes steps of:

[[i))] determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

[[A))] determining whether a marker delete command is entered and if so, deleting the marker from the map, and

[[B))] determining whether a marker move command is entered and if so, moving the marker on the map.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36, ~~wherein~~ if a marker move command is entered, the inclinal event is updated to reflect its new location.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein~~ the first window is a calendar, ~~wherein~~ the calendar includes a number of alternative time lines, ~~wherein~~ the calendar includes an interval at a data associated with the inclination event, in each of the alternative time lines, and ~~wherein~~ the step of updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes steps of:

[[i)]] determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

[[A)]] determining a selected one of the alternative time lines,

[[B)]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a move command and if so, moving the interval,

[[C)]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a lengthen command and if so, lengthening the duration of the interval,

[[D)]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a shorten command and if so, shortening the duration of the interval,

[[E)]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a deletion command and if so, deleting the interval, and

[[F)]] determining whether an interval creation command is entered and if so, generating an interval in at least the selected one of the alternative time lines.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein~~ if the state of the man-machine interface is the standby state, and if the first window is maximized, the first window focus view state is entered, and

~~wherein~~ if the state of the man-machine interface is the standby state, and if the second window is maximized, the second window focus view state is entered.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein if the state of the man-machine interface is the first window focus view state, and if the first window is minimized, the standby state is entered, and

wherein if the state of the man-machine interface is the first window focus view state, and if a flicking gesture is entered, the second window focus view state is entered.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

41. (Currently amended) A system for assisting a user in a decision making process, the system comprising:

[[a]] an input facility for accepting user inputs;

[[b]] a processing facility for

[[i]] accepting user inputs from the input facility,

[[ii]] determining [[an]] a desirous event based on user inputs from the input facility,

[[iii]] ~~determining~~ determining first information of a first type, the first information being related to the desirous event,

[[iv]] determining second information of a second type, the second information being related to the desirous event,

[[v]] determining a first window including a visual representation of the first information,

[[vi]] determining a second window including a visual representation of the second information,

[[vii]] generating a simulated three dimensional environment,

[[viii]] determining a display state based on user inputs from the input facility, and

[[ix]] generating video outputs including

[[A]] the first and second windows arranged in the simulated three dimensional environment when a first display state is determined,

[[B]] the first window, in a normal, head on, view when a second display state is determined, and

[[C]] the second window, in a normal, head on, view when a third display state is determined; and

[[c]] a video monitor unit for rendering the video outputs generated by the processing facility.

42. (Currently amended) The system of claim 41, ~~wherein~~ the processing facility further updates states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted by the input facility.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

43. (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

[[i)]] generating an query based on at least one of ~~the (a)~~ the user inputs and
[[b)]] a user profile;

[[ii)]] processing the query to generate a return; and

[[iii)]] determining whether the return includes information of the first type or information of the second type, ~~wherein~~ if the return includes information of the first type, the first window is updated, and ~~wherein~~ if the return includes information of the second type, the second window is updated.

44. (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the first window is a bulletin board, and ~~wherein~~ the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

[[i)]] determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

[[A)]] determining whether a note creation command was entered and if so, accepting text via the user input device,

[[B)]] determining whether a note edit command was entered and if so, editing a note based on entries from the user input device;

[[C)]] determining whether a note posting command was entered and if so,

[[-]] generating a query based on the contents of the note,

[[-]] processing the query to generate a return, and

[[-]] determining whether the return includes any information of the second type and if so, updating the second window; and

[[D)]] determining whether a note move command was entered and if so, updating a location of the note on the bulletin board.

45. (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, ~~wherein~~ the note creation command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an empty part of the bulletin board,

~~wherein~~ the note edit command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an existing note on the bulletin board,

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

~~wherein~~ a note posting command is a flicking gesture, and
~~wherein~~ a note move command is a mouse drag.

46. (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, ~~wherein~~, if one of a note creation command and a note edit command is entered, the note is displayed, on the video monitor, in a normal, head on, view in a foreground of the three dimensional environment.

47. (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the first window is a map,
~~wherein~~ the map includes a marker at a location associated with the desirous event, and
~~wherein~~ the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:
 [[i)] determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,
 [[A)] determining whether a marker delete command is entered
 and if so, deleting the marker from the map, and
 [[B)] determining whether a marker move command is entered
 and if so, moving the marker on the map.

48. (Currently amended) The system of claim 47, ~~wherein~~ if a marker move command is entered, the processing facility updates the desirous event to reflect its new location.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

49. (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the first window is a calendar, ~~wherein~~ the calendar includes a number of alternative time lines, ~~wherein~~ the calendar includes an interval at a date associated with the desirous event, in each of the alternative time lines, and

~~wherein~~ the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

[[i]] determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

[[A]] determining a selected one of the alternative time lines,

[[B]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a move command and if so, moving the interval,

[[C]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a lengthen command and if so, lengthening the duration of the interval,

[[D]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a shorten command and if so, shortening the duration of the interval,

[[E]] determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a deletion command and if so, deleting the interval, and

[[F]] determining whether an interval creation command is entered and if so, generating an interval in at least the selected one of the alternative time lines.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

50. (Currently amended) A tangible medium storing or communicating machine readable instructions which, when executed by a machine, performs ~~steps of~~:

[[a]] accepting an expectational event from the user input device; and

B1 [[b]] generating a display for output on the video monitor device, the display including

[[i]] a first window displaying first information of a first type, the first information being related to the expectational event, and

[[ii]] a second window displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the expectational event.